

Draft

**FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL**  
**Special Meeting**  
**March 2, 2009**

**Date:** 3/2/2009

**Place:** Yale New Haven Hospital with a conference call in option

**Time:** 10:35am - 12:00pm

**Facilitator:** Karen Zrenda

**Recorder:** Chris Sloss (Respectfully submitted 3/3/09)

**Attendees:** *Voting members* –Karen Zrenda (Parent), Cindy Stramandinoli (Parent call in), Angela Spino (DD Council/Parent call in), Karen Hlavac (Parent call in), Laura Knapp (parent call in), Joan Law (Parent/call in) Robyn Trowbridge (Parent call in) *Non-voting members* - Tom Brooks (COC call in), Alice Buttwell (FSN/Parent call in) Moira O’Neill (OCA call in), Lisa Sheppard (FSN/ Parent call in), Jen Carroll (FSN/Parent call in) *Staff* – Chris Sloss (call in)

**Welcome and Introductions** - Meeting was brought to order by Karen Zrenda at 10:35 and introductions were made. A quorum of voting members is present today.

**Acceptance of January Minutes** - Tabled to our next meeting.

**2009 Legislative Session:**

**H.B 6375 – An Act Concerning Review & Termination of Certain Boards and Commissions.**

Motion to NOT support the elimination of The CT Family Support Council or The Commission on Children by Robyn Trowbridge. Seconded by Laura Knapp, all in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

**H.B 6309 – An Act Concerning Administration of the Department of Developmental Services**

This is a technical bill which supports changing the voting members on our council to allow executive directors designees to vote. Motion to support the technical changes by Laura Knapp. Seconded by Joan Law. All in Favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

**H.B 6365 – An Act Concerning the State Budget**

We do not support the elimination of the following agencies (offices, boards, and commissions): The Office of the Child Advocate, The Office of the Health Care Advocate, The Commission on Children, The Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired or the elimination of The Board of Education Services for the Blind. Motion to NOT support the elimination of these agencies by Laura Knapp. Seconded by Robyn Trowbridge. All in Favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

**H.B 6152 – An Act Creating a Catastrophic Cost Pool for Medical Expenses**

Laura motioned to write a letter supporting the concept of developing a catastrophic relief fund but not to list it as one of the legislative recommendations of the council in our annual report or legislative breakfast. Seconded by Robyn. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

H.B. 5 – An Act Concerning Utilization of Unspent State Children’s Health Insurance Plan Funds for Children with Special Health Care Needs

Cindy motioned we write a letter supporting the concept of developing more opportunities for families to access health insurance and other extra supports for children but not to list it as one of the priorities of the council. We will reference it in our annual report since it is consistent with our desire to explore different ways to offer additional healthcare coverage for children with special health care needs. (I.e., our support of the Family Opportunity Act and the Children’s waiver) Karen Hlavac Seconded. All in Favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

H.B 5146 – An Act Concerning Criminal Background Checks of Camp Employees Who Transport Children with Special Health Care Needs

Although we all agree this is vitally important and wish to support the idea, we agreed that it is best NOT to include this in our report at this time since this was not an identified priority at the annual retreat. We will table this for further discussion at our next FSC meeting.

H.B 5723 – An Act Concerning Excess Cost for Special Education

We agreed to table this to a future FSC meeting as this was not an identified priority at the annual retreat and we are interested in reviewing further information.

**Legislative Meet and Greet:**

March 5<sup>th</sup> 2009 from 9-10:30am at the LOB

It was suggested that we have one consistent message at the Meet and Greet about why the FSC is important. We need parents to speak out on the importance of the FSC at this breakfast. We need parents from our own council as well as other parents to speak (or send letters.) Also, a crucial part of the breakfast is making contact with your legislators beforehand. Please reach out to your local representatives and invite them to attend the breakfast. Encourage other family members and colleagues to do the same and then seek out their legislators in the building and have a face to face visit with them before they leave!

**Adjournment of meeting** - Meeting adjourned at 12:00